WHAT IS EDRS?

The primary purpose of an EDRS is to enable the participants of death registration to file death records with local and state registrars via the Internet 24 hours a day, seven days a week. An EDRS provides for on-line access so that decedent fact-of-death and cause-of-death information can be registered via the Internet by multiple death registration participants working on the same case. With an EDRS, funeral directors and morticians will be better able to serve families by obtaining copies of death certificates faster and more efficiently.

South Carolina Funeral Directors Association (SCFDA)

The following is an excerpt from a letter received from the Executive Director of SCFDA:

"....We look forward to being involved on the EDRS Advisory Board and helping to design and implement the EDRS among funeral homes. I am pleased to support the EDRS in South Carolina and feel the implementation will be beneficial to all partners in the death and burial process."

South Carolina Morticians Association

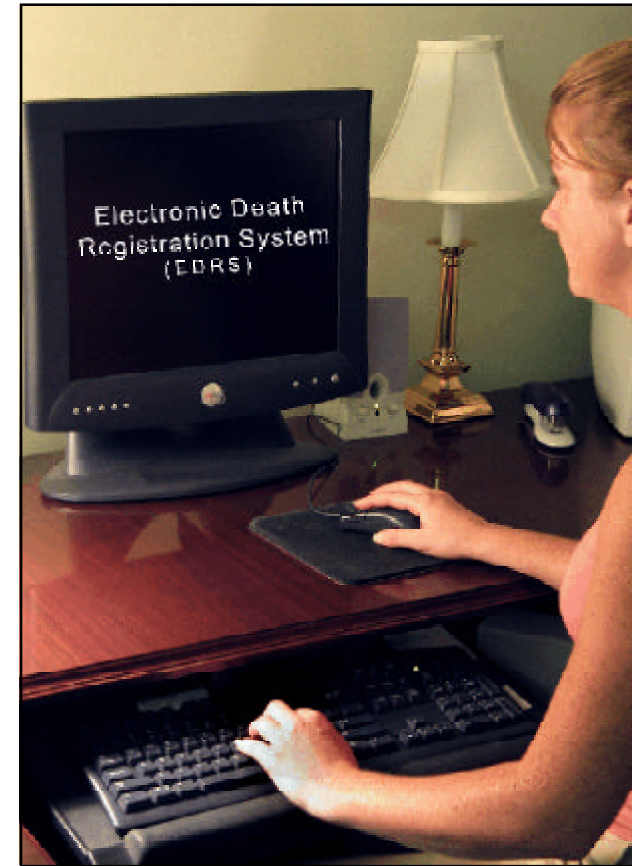The following is an excerpt from a letter from the President of the SC Morticians Association:

"... It is encouraging that South Carolina is moving forward with the development of a flexible system for registering deaths electronically to improve the quality and timeliness of death certificates...I am pleased to support the EDRS in South Carolina.."

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

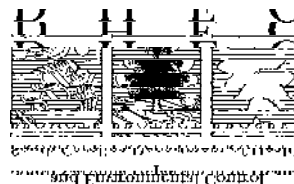South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

5/20/2004

South Carolina's Electronic Death Registration System

What Funeral Directors and Morticians Should Know

Potential Benefits of the Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS)

- Provides for paperless filing of a death record

- Eliminates the need to physically track down physicians to obtain signatures

- Facilitates on-line collaboration among multiple death registration system users, including funeral homes, mortuaries, hospitals, nursing homes, physicians, medical examiners, coroners, and local and state registrars

- Supports the completion and filing of a death record that is partially an electronic record and partially a paper certificate if all participants are not on-line

- Improves the timeliness and quality of death data by providing real-time edits

- Reduces errors by verifying the decedent's SSN by automatically matching with SSA files

- Enables faster death registration that will reduce turn around time for obtaining certified copies for families

- Improves fraud prevention by using electronic authentication

- Supports electronic trade calls between funeral homes and mortuaries

- Provides the capability to electronically request certified copies for the family

On-line Verification of Social Security Number

Through on-line verification of Social Security Number (SSN), a decedent's SSN reported through electronic death registration will be transmitted to the Social Security Administration (SSA) for electronic verification. Funeral directors and morticians will receive notification through the EDRS system about the accuracy of the SSN as compared with the decedent's name, sex, and date of birth reported in the death record.

Potential benefits of on-line SSN verification:

- Reducing decedent's SSN errors on death certificates

- Improved accuracy of the SSN that is reported to SSA

- Speeding notification of fact-of-death to SSA

Features of the EDRS

- User-friendly data entry screens
- Highly secure Internet transmission
- Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- Accommodates large and small funeral homes and mortuaries
- On-line help and instructions built into the system
- Help desk support for users

How the funeral director/mortician can become involved in the EDRS

- Contact South Carolina's Vital Records office to see what progress is being made toward an EDRS.

- Contact your funeral director association or mortician association about what progress is being made toward an EDRS.

- Invite state Vital Records staff to attend key funeral director/mortician meetings to discuss the EDRS.

- Communicate with physicians, medical examiners and coroners about their roles in the EDRS process.

- Involve yourself in an EDRS participants advisory group.

National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA)

The following constitutes the official 2003 NFDA stance on the establishment of a national electronic death certificate and registration system:

That NFDA continue to support the adoption of a national uniform death certificate and the implementation of a national electronic death registration system by the federal government providing financial incentives to eligible vital records districts for implementation.